

VZCZCXRO1550
PP RUEHRG
DE RUEHBR #0834 1301629
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P 101629Z MAY 07
FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8883
INFO RUEHRI/AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO 4338
RUEHSO/AMCONSUL SAO PAULO 9819
RUEHRG/AMCONSUL RECIFE 6619
RUEANAT/NASA HQ WASHDC

UNCLAS BRASILIA 000834

SIPDIS

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STATE FOR OES/SAT FECHAVARRIA
STATE FOR WHA/BPOPP
STATE PLEASE PASS TO GLOBE OFFICE FOR TKENNEDY
STATE FOR OES/STC LBLANCAS
STATE PLEASE PASS TO NASA FOR MMOORE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [SENV](#) [KGLB](#) [TBIO](#) [KSCA](#) [OSCI](#) [BR](#)

SUBJECT: BRAZIL EXPRESSES RESERVATIONS ABOUT SIGNING THE GLOBE MOU

REF: APRIL 21, 2007 EMAIL

¶1. SUMMARY: After previously indicating that it was ready to participate in the NASA GLOBE program, a K-12 science program for the schools, the GoB has reversed itself stating that since the United States has not ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity, the GoB could not be sure that the environmental data sent by students to the United States would be protected. The Ministry said the MOU governing the GLOBE program may have to be renegotiated. END SUMMARY.

¶2. In a meeting with Dr. Alessandro Candéas, Director of International Affairs in Brazil's Ministry of Education, to discuss the Government of Brazil's (GoB) participation in the GLOBE program, Post learned that the subject had been the topic of an interagency meeting organized by the Foreign Ministry (Itamaraty) several weeks ago. Dr. Candéas said that even though the Ministry of Education had earlier indicated that Brazil was ready to sign the MOU, there were now concerns about whether the text as written offered adequate protection for Brazil's natural resources.

¶3. The major problem is that since the United States has signed but not ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity, the GoB cannot be sure that the environmental data collected by the Brazilian students as part of the GLOBE program and sent to NASA would be adequately protected.

¶4. Post asked Dr. Alessandro if the fact that the United States had not ratified the CBD was a make or break point, because the decision to ratify rested in the hands of the U.S. Congress. Alessandro said without ratification, the GoB would want to renegotiate parts of the text of the GLOBE MOU to add the assurances needed for the protection of biological material. He said a revised text would focus more on education, and less on "collecting" data to send to the United States.

¶5. In addition, Dr. Alessandro said that the GoB would like Brazilian scientists to have more participation in the processing of the data collected by students and sent to NASA. As interpreted by the GoB, under the GLOBE MOU, Brazil students and teachers would send material to NASA, it would be "processed" then data sent back to Brazil. Brazil wants to be involved in the "processing" Dr. Alessandro said.

¶6. Dr. Alessandro ended the meeting by saying the GoB thinks GLOBE is an important program and would be willing to renegotiate the MOU.

¶7. Post was also told that the "Continued Education, Literacy and Diversity Secretariat" of the Ministry of Education does not repeat

not have the legal authority under Brazilian law to sign the GLOBE MOU because it does not have the authority to waive customs duties or taxes for equipment entering the country.

[18](#). Post is very disappointed at this reversal. We request guidance on whether the GLOBE MOU can be customized for individual countries and if NASA would be willing to do so for Brazil.

SOBEL